

Newport Forest

October 16 2004

3:15 - 6:45 pm

**Weather:** prec. 30 mm; ovcast; WSW < 30 kmh; LM 8° C; FCF 7 C

**Purpose:** birdwatching

**Participants:** Pat & Kee

It was one of those very cold blustery fall days when you really don't want to get out of the car. But I followed Pat's example. We put up bird feed, then dispersed to different jobs. While I carved trail, Pat put tar caulking on the trailer roof. It was heartening that we had received a decent rainfall, enough to set the groundwater clock back a few weeks, anyway.

We patrolled the beach to see what tracks might have been made in the newly soft clay. We found GBH tracks that were made that day. Pat spotted a Wood Frog near the drift pile at the RL. We went up to the bluffs bench to sit a while, then Pat returned to birdwatch along Edgar's Trail, while I continued on the TRT. No Lotor on the HB.

On the return leg, I inspected several White Ash trees in the BCF for the D-shaped burrow of the Emerald Ash Borer. Finding no evidence, I then noticed an obscure-looking lichen that was almost blue-black. (S) I then noticed a patch of beautiful pastel pale green on a nearby White Elm. (S) These resulted in two new species of lichen for the property.

Back at the trailer, Pat told of seeing a small Cooper's Hawk (possibly a Sharpie) swooping out of the woods, then flying into HBF for a landing. It had a small, round prey item in its talons. No black cat showed up today.

**Birds:** (14)

American Crow (BCF); American Robin (GF); Black-capped Chickadee (ET); Blue Jay (Tr); Common Grackle (LM); Downy Woodpecker (LM); Eastern Bluebird (HP); Gold-crowned Kinglet (ET/BCG); Great Blue Heron (RL); Great Eastern Gnatcatcher (BCF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); Ruffed Grouse (BCF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr); White-throated Sparrow (ET)

**New species:**

Mealy Camouflage Lichen

*Melanelia [disjuncta]\** BCF KD

Fluffy Dust Lichen

*Lepraria lonificans* BCF KD

\* all characters matched except habitat. This species prefers granitic rocks.